

## Female Reformatories.

The fundamental principle laid down as the basis of the English criminal law, and the chief end and aim of its institution is the prevention of crime. All punishment inflicted upon a criminal, it is said, is for the purpose of preventing a repetition of the crime by the criminal himself, and to deter others from following his example by a wholesome fear of incurring the same punishment to which he has been subjected. The law knows no such feeling as revenge. There is nothing vindictive in its nature or design, even though the penalty it inflicts is generally supposed to be in proportion to the enormity of the offence committed. The greater the offence, so a general rule, to which, however, there are many exceptions, the more severe the penalty. The murderer, for example, is punished with death, because his crime is believed to be the gravest that a man can perpetrate against his fellow, and the death penalty is doubtless the severest that human laws can provide, or human tribunals execute; still, it is not

world, as it were, with the loss of their fair fame, for whom the law provides no punishment but a small fine or a few days imprisonment in the common jail. No good is accomplished by the imposition of such fine, or the short period of imprisonment to which they are subjected. For the moment the fine is paid, or the term of their incarceration expires, they return to the same course of profligacy and dissoluteness, and become worse and worse. All disease and exposure terminates their wretched existence. No attempt is ever made to redeem them from their degeneration or lead them back to the paths of rectitude or virtue. For this class too, some institution similar to the Reformatory Prisons ought to be provided, where they might be subjected to a course of moral and mental training and taught habits of industry, and where they could not by any possibility be subjected to those influences which led to their vicious habits, and doubtless a large portion of this class might, after a term of years, be restored to society, clothed and in their right mind. Could this be done, incalculable blessings would be conferred upon these outcasts of society; and the tone of public morality would be amply repaid for the expense incurred in bringing about so desirable a change. The subject is a most important one, but we have not space to dwell upon it at greater length in the pre-

## The Canadians in Nova Scotia.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE TIMES.]

VII.

HALIFAX HOTEL, Aug. 15, 1864

Saturday opened as brilliantly as its predecessors. The Committee made arrangements for us to visit the gold mines at Waverly. At eleven o'clock we left Richmond by special train for Windsor Junction. We had to walk some two miles through the bush to Germantown. As we approached we heard the noise of the stampers of the quartz crusher as of an express train. Our party went through the mill and closely examined the process of crushing. The mines were then inspected. As our time was limited we could not proceed to examine the works of other companies, and it was thought the operations of the German Company would prove a fair sample in the mining and crushing of quartz. The arrangement of the quartz mine is much the same as that of coal. Shafts are sunk at intervals through which the quartz is raised in buckets, and they also serve to ventilate the galleries which run at right angles to them. The quartz is conveyed to the mill and heated in a kiln so as to render it more pliable for the stampers. A large overshot wheel fed by an aqueduct from the water of Rocky Lake drives the whole machinery, which is in perpetual motion day and night, from Sunday at twelve o'clock till Saturday at twelve o'clock. The stampers are kept continually fed with quartz, which is pulverized and washed down into receivers.

tion of these colonies as a matter of necessity, which must sooner or later be accomplished, and that he, for his part, should do what he could to favor such a laudable scheme. The Governor spoke very much to the same effect. The several remarks on the programme elicited very eloquent replies, and the several songs interspersed added variety and enjoyment to the entertainment. In conclusion, suffice it to say that the dinner was in every respect a decided success.

## The Critical Stage of the War.

From the Richmond Sentinel, Aug. 20.

We have arrived at a very critical stage of the war, and calm circumspection, caution and patient endurance are needed to carry us successfully through it. To weather the next six weeks will be a most difficult task for the North. She is well aware of this, and will no doubt be very busy in endeavoring to outtrap us into hasty compromises, concessions or admissions that may deprive us of the vantage ground which we are likely to attain in less than two months. Within that time, it is not at all improbable that the armies of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, by losses in battle and by other causes, will have been almost annihilated. Within that time it is almost certain that the approaching Chicago Convention will have thrown its apple of discord and destruction into the already distracted and discordant ranks of the North. It may suggest terms of honorable peace. At least, it will be sure to endeavor to bribe rather than promote the peculiar war policy of Lincoln, because it